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Foreign

CROPS AND MARKETS



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TOBACCO (Page 355) CACAO (Page 369)

GRAIN PROSPECTS (Page 359)

CONTENTS

Page

COTTON AND OTHER FIBER

U.S. Cotton Exports Down in February.....	351
Cotton Acreage to be Restricted in Syria.....	358

FATS, OILS AND OILSEEDS

Norway's Antarctic Whale Oil Output Greatly Reduced.....	349
Haiti's Castor Bean Exports Down in 1952.....	350
Indonesia Copra Exports Continue Low.....	350
Argentina Increases Tung Prices to Processors, Growers...	353
New Guinea, Papua Copra Purchase Price Established by U.K.....	353
Greece's Oilseed Production Down in 1952.....	353

FOREIGN TRADE

U.S. Foreign Trade in Agricultural Products During February, 1953.....	366
---	-----

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDS

World Winter Grain Prospects Less Favorable.....	359
Finnish-Soviet Trade Agreement Assures Finland's Grain Import Needs for 1953.....	348
Finland Increases Prices to Grain Producers.....	363
U.S. Rice Exports Decline in February.....	363
Specified Amounts of Burma Rice Sold at High Price.....	365

LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

Argentine Beef Prices Increased.....	357
Wool Industry in U.K. Booming.....	357

REGIONAL INTELLIGENCE

Yugoslavia Receives \$11 Million Dollar U.S. Grant.....	371
---	-----

TOBACCO

Tobacco Production in Specified Countries During 1953....	355
Mexico's Increased Tobacco Import Duty.....	354
U.S. Tobacco Exports for February 1953.....	354

TROPICAL PRODUCTS

World Production of Cacao Beans.....	369
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FOR RELEASE

MONDAY

APRIL 20, 1953

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

L A T E N E W S

Compulsory marketing of western Canada's wheat, oats and barley through a single authorized agency, the Canadian Wheat Board, was extended for a further period of 4 years by recent action of the Canadian House of Commons. The Canadian Wheat Board Act requires renewal or extension every 4 years. The activities of the Board, which were scheduled to expire on July 31, 1953, will now be continued until July 31, 1957. It is significant that the measure authorizing the extension of a government-sponsored marketing agency and pool for the chief agricultural products of Canada was passed without drawing adverse criticism from advocates of private enterprise.

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Continuation of the Australian Wheat Stabilization Plan beyond its expiration date on July 31, 1953 was agreed to in principle at a meeting late in March of the Commonwealth State Ministers of Agriculture. The Ministers, however, made the reservation that continuation of the Plan would have to be approved by their respective State Governments. Further discussions on the continuation of the Plan, under which all phases of the marketing of Australia's wheat crop is the exclusive prerogative of the Australian Wheat Board, will not take place until the question of the continuation of the International Wheat Agreement is definitely settled.

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Philippine copra and coconut oil exports during March totaled 49,378 long tons copra equivalent and represented a considerable increase from the January and February shipments of 40,775 and 38,064 tons, respectively. Compared with March 1952, however, last month's exports were down 10 per cent. Copra shipments of 44,629 tons were sent to the following destinations: Pacific, 22,051 tons; Gulf, 4,136; Italy, 2,000; the Netherlands, 2,000; Denmark, 1,000; Belgium, 700; Palestine, 1,500; Europe unspecified, 400; West Indies, 3,000; and others, unspecified, 7,842 tons. Coconut oil, amounting to 2,992 tons, was exported to: Atlantic, 2,763 tons and Pacific, 229 tons.

(Continued on Page 373)

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

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FINISH-SOVIET TRADE AGREEMENT ASSURES FINLAND'S GRAIN IMPORT NEEDS FOR 1953

Finland's grain import requirements for 1953 are completely covered by the Finnish-Soviet agreement that was signed in Moscow on February 23, 1953, according to the American Legation at Helsinki. As a result no imports of those commodities from Western countries are expected this year. The agreement under reference is negotiated annually under the framework of a Five-Year Trade Agreement signed in Moscow on June 13, 1950. This basic agreement provides that commodity exchange agreements are to be negotiated each year for a 5-year period ending with 1955. The annual agreements fix quotas covering the quantities of goods to be imported by Finland from Russia during the year and the quantities of goods to be imported by Russia from Finland.

Wheat, rye and barley constitute the bulk of the grains which Finland agreed to import from Russia during 1953. The import quotas extended to Russia under the 1953 agreement compared with those established under the 1952 agreement and actual Soviet shipments to Finland during 1952 are as follows:

FINLAND'S IMPORT QUOTAS FOR RUSSIAN GRAIN

Commodity	1952		1953 Quota
	Original Quota	Soviet Shipments 1/	
	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons
Wheat.....	277,500	289,683	275,000
Rye.....	102,500	107,858	100,000
Barley....	20,000	20,514	30,000
Oats.....	35,000	34,677	-
Total...	435,000	452,732	405,000

Source: State Granary and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

1/ Includes Soviet shipments through January, 1953 under the original 1952 quota and shipments under subsequently negotiated supplementary quotas.

Prices paid for grain imported under the framework of the Five-Year agreement are pre-fixed for the entire year, but no announcement has been made with respect to prices for 1953 deliveries. It is understood, however, that to reach the price f.o.b. cars at Finnish-Soviet border, the current world market price was increased by the costs that would have been incurred had the grain been purchased from America, i.e., by such costs as ocean freight, discharge from steamer at Finnish port, and loading on railway cars.

Heavy arrivals of Russian grain so taxed the country's storage capacity during 1952 that approximately 72,000 metric tons (32,000 tons of wheat, 10,000 tons of rye, 12,000 tons of oats and 18,000 tons of barley) had to be reexported, mostly to Western Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium. While these reexports helped to reduce Finland's unfavorable trade balance with those countries, the sales were made at a loss.

Finland paid 28,000 Finnish marks per metric ton (one dollar in U.S. currency is equivalent to 231 Finnmarks) for the Soviet wheat, 25,410 marks for the rye, 21,020 marks for the oats, and 19,060 marks for the barley, f.o.b. cars at the Finnish border. To these prices, however, must be added the costs of inland freight, unloading and storage, freight to ports and handling and loading cost on reexportation. Prices obtained for the reexported grain amounted to only 22,800 to 22,850 marks per ton for wheat, 19,600 marks for rye, and 13,020 marks for oats, f.o.b. Finnish ports. Prices for the barley reexports are not known. The loss will presumably be covered by Government funds or by increases in the prices of commodities imported from the countries to which the shipments were made.

NORWAY'S ANTARCTIC WHALE OIL OUTPUT GREATLY REDUCED

Norwegian production of whale oil from the Antarctic pelagic (open sea) whaling season which ended on March 16, 1953, was about 137,800 short tons, according to preliminary data, and represents a drop of almost one-fourth from last year's output, reports M. Smith, American Embassy, Oslo. The reduction in output from the previous season is roughly in proportion to Norway's reduced participation this year. Having entered the race for whales with only 7 of the 16 expeditions operating, as compared to 10 of 19 expeditions last year, Norway completed the season with roughly one-third of the total 1953 catch. In the previous season, Norway's proportion of the total catch for all participating nations was about one-half.

The Norwegian shore station on South Georgia, Husvik Harbor, was to continue whaling operations until the middle of April. As of the first of the month, it appeared that Husvik would surpass last year's whale oil output of 8,790 tons. This would make up slightly for the large drop in this season's pelagic production.

The total catch of baleen whales for all expeditions this year did not come as close to the international limit of 16,000 blue-whale units as in 1952. Of approximately 15,000 units caught by the end of the 1953 season, Norway accounted for about 5,000. Last year the proportion was 7,151 out of 15,875 units.

The pelagic catch of sperm whales this season by Norway produced about 4,900 tons of sperm oil representing only 23 percent of last year's output.

The stabilization of the whale oil price at the comparatively low level of 70 pounds sterling per long ton (\$175 per short ton) makes the reduced production an even harder blow to the Norwegian economy. From a post-Korea high of £170 (\$425), the price had sunk to £120 (\$300) by the fall of 1951. Then, very rapidly in January 1952 the price dropped to £70. Norway's 1952 production of whale oil was finally disposed of at an average of £82 (\$205). In spite of a few advance sales at higher prices, the average price for this season's production has been only £71-10-0 (\$178.75 per short ton). This year, for a change, practically the entire production had been sold before the close of the season. Considering both the reduced volume and lower average price, it appears that Norway's income from pelagic whaling in 1953 will be less than two-thirds of the 1952 figure.

HAITI'S CASTOR BEAN EXPORTS DOWN IN 1952

Haitian castor bean exports in 1952 totaled 4,591 short tons against 5,079 tons in 1951, reports Rollo P. Stovall, Economic Officer, American Embassy, Port au Prince. All of the 1951 exports and all but 1.2 tons of the 1952 bean exports went to the United States. Although about 4 tons of castor oil were exported to the United States in 1951, no oil was exported last year. Castor bean stocks, as of January 1, 1953, were reported at about 300 tons. Estimates of production and acreage of castor beans in Haiti are not available but practically the entire output is exported.

Export prices received for castor beans by a leading exporter during 1952 varied from \$275 c. and f. per long ton (\$245 per short ton) in January to \$190 (\$170) in the second and third quarters, increasing to \$210 (\$188) in December.

Cottonseed oil is the principal oil produced in Haiti for local consumption. In 1952 approximately 4,350 tons of domestic cottonseed was crushed by the 2 local oil mills yielding an estimated 560 tons of oil. Imports of cottonseed oil last year, mainly from the United States, amounted to 985 tons as compared with 505 tons in 1951.

Sufficient soap stock was obtained from the oil refining operations to make 202 tons of laundry soap. A newly formed company has been granted a monopoly by the Haitian Government to manufacture soap in Haiti.

The local supply of cottonseed depends on the size of the cotton crop. The 1952 crop was much larger than in 1951, and the 1953 crop is expected to be slightly larger than last year. The outlook for castor beans is difficult to determine because practically all of Haiti's production is gathered from wild stands. More beans will be gathered if the price is attractive.

INDONESIA COPRA EXPORTS CONTINUE LOW

Indonesian exports of copra during March 1953 totaled 19,251 long tons, an increase of 4 percent from the previous month but only 57 percent of the volume shipped in March 1952. The breakdown of the March 1953 copra exports, by country of destination, is as follows: Western Germany--8,000 tons; the Netherlands--6,397; Japan--2,854; and Norway--2,000 tons.

Copra Foundation purchases during March amounted to 35,628 tons of which 32,872 tons originated in East Indonesia and 2,756 tons in West Borneo. Deliveries of ~~copra~~ to local oil mills were reported at 17,592 tons. The buying prices in East Indonesia and West Borneo increased March 28 by 30 rupiahs to 170 and 165 rupiahs, respectively, including packing. These prices are guaranteed indefinitely.

U.S. COTTON EXPORTS DOWN IN FEBRUARY

Exports of cotton from the United States in February amounted to only 270,000 bales of 500 pounds (259,000 running bales), the lowest for any month since September 1952. Exports during August-February 1952-53 totaled 2,080,000 bales (1,998,000 running bales), representing about 49 percent of the total for a corresponding period a year ago.

Among the principal developments in foreign countries during the first quarter of 1953 that may tend to stimulate exports of United States cotton in coming months is a recent rise in prices of a number of competitive foreign growths. This is attributable mainly to the fact that prices have been strengthened as surpluses were reduced by increased export sales since early January. Most of the surpluses in Turkey, Mexico, East Africa, and Peru have been sold. Most of the better grades of Egyptian Ashmouni and Giza 30 have been sold. More than half of Argentina's surplus, purchased by the government at support prices nearly double the current world market level, has been exported under barter agreements and through the use of multiple exchange rates. Brazil, by contrast, has exported during August-February 1952-53 only 42,000 bales of a surplus estimated at approximately 1.5 million bales, and no effective solution has been found for rapid disposal of last year's crop purchased by the Bank of Brazil at prices well above the current world market.

Mill consumption in cotton-importing countries is generally holding the favorable levels established late in 1952 with exception of Italy, Spain, and Japan, where some reduction was reported for the past 2 to 4 months. Consumption has exceeded imports during the first half of the current market year in nearly all importing countries, the principal exceptions being Japan, Belgium, and the Scandinavian countries. Stocks have thus been reduced below the levels of August 1, 1952, especially in the United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, Germany, and India.

There are still, however, a number of unfavorable factors in the foreign situation that will have to be removed if sizable increases in cotton export sales are to be attained before the end of the current season. Sales of cotton textiles for export, particularly to colonial markets in Asia and Africa, have shown no general improvement in recent months largely because the decline in cotton prices in 1952 has not yet been fully reflected in prices of textiles in retailers' possession in these markets. Prices of products exported from these areas, however, have fallen sharply since early 1952, thus reducing consumer purchasing power.

Mills in cotton-importing countries that rely to a considerable extent on export outlets for textile sales have found profit margins shrinking in a squeeze between nearly constant costs of production and declining prices for textiles. For this reason and because of the downward trend in world cotton prices, particularly since mid-1952, they have been unwilling to maintain large cotton stocks.

UNITED STATES: Exports of cotton by countries of destination; averages
1935-39 and 1945-49; annual 1950-51 and 1951-52;
August-February 1951-52 and 1952-53

(Equivalent bales of 500 pounds gross)

Country of destination	Year beginning August 1					
	Averages		1950	1951	August-February	
	1935-39	1945-49			1951-52	1952-53
	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales
Austria.....	0	1/ 36	55	32	19	22
Belgium-Luxembourg.....	169	131	80	317	296	59
Czechoslovakia.....	65	57	6	0	0	0
Denmark.....	33	14	31	34	27	19
Finland.....	35	21	3	33	23	4
France.....	662	575	447	309	268	287
Germany.....	511	340	481	447	328	156
Greece.....	3	21	1	0	0	0
Italy.....	442	489	546	560	282	198
Netherlands.....	107	131	158	197	142	55
Norway.....	17	7	20	15	14	8
Poland and Danzig.....	180	69	1	0	0	0
Spain.....	108	69	66	203	170	64
Sweden.....	115	12	33	100	85	25
Switzerland.....	11	26	22	99	97	25
United Kingdom.....	1,346	488	307	662	580	276
Yugoslavia.....	17	47	78	122	68	58
Other Europe.....	2/ 64	12	12	3/ 27	21	2
Total Europe.....	3,885	2,545	2,347	3,157	2,420	1,258
Canada.....	301	275	431	296	215	182
Chile.....	9	20	48	35	33	1
Colombia.....	20	24	55	53	33	32
Cuba.....	11	16	24	20	15	8
India.....	52	86	219	778	627	32
China.....	117	401	54	0	0	0
Hong Kong.....	4/	35	27	0	0	0
Indonesia.....	4/	5	16	14	10	11
Japan.....	1,142	585	883	1,095	754	416
Korea, Republic of.....	5/	6/ 48	36	55	24	26
Australia.....	9	7	0	50	45	8
Other countries.....	43	18	140	7/ 158	107	8/ 106
Total.....	5,589	4,065	4,280	5,711	4,283	2,080

1/ 4-year average. 2/ Includes Portugal 36. 3/ Includes Portugal 21.
4/ Less than 500 bales. 5/ If any, included in Other countries. 6/ 3-year average. 7/ Taiwan 53, French Indochina 24, 8/ Taiwan 64.

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

Increasing interest among foreign countries in barter and other types of trade agreements involving sales of foreign-grown cotton for export has resulted in the opening of negotiations for a large number of such agreements in the past 12 months. The need for greater export outlets for increasing surpluses of manufactured goods, as well as a desire to conserve dollar exchange against expected post-Korea reduction in dollar earnings, has tended to stimulate interest in bilateral trade agreements. Cotton has figured prominently in most of those agreements concluded or proposed in the past 12 months.....By Charles H. Barber.

ARGENTINA INCREASES TUNG PRICES TO PROCESSORS, GROWERS

The Argentine Trade Promotion Institute (IAPI) on March 29, 1953, announced provisionally that tung oil processors will be paid 6,000 pesos per metric ton f.a.s. Buenos Aires (\$726 per short ton, converted at the applicable exchange rate of 750 pesos per 100 U.S. dollars) for oil from the 1952-53 crop (crushed in 1953). Latest sales by IAPI were reported near 5,600 pesos (\$677). The comparable official price for oil from the 1951-52 crop was 4,960 pesos (\$600).

The minimum official price to producers for tung fruit of the 1952 crop was fixed at 580 pesos per metric ton (\$70 per short ton) delivered to crushing plants. All previous sales at lower levels will have to be adjusted. Growers received 550 pesos (\$67) for the 1950-51 crop.

NEW GUINEA, PAPUA COPRA PURCHASE PRICE ESTABLISHED BY UNITED KINGDOM

The Ministry for the Territories of New Guinea and Papua announced recently that the price to be paid for copra during 1953 under the long-term United Kingdom purchase agreement had been fixed at £65 per long ton (\$182) f.o.b., after negotiation with the United Kingdom Ministry of Food, reports D.K. Ballentine, American Embassy, Canberra, Australia. This is the same as the price paid during 1952 (see Foreign Crops and Markets, April 7, 1952).

The Ministry also announced that 5,500 long tons of copra from the Territory had been sold to Sweden at £74 per ton (\$207) f.o.b. The purchase agreement with the United Kingdom covered the entire copra export surplus but the United Kingdom gave its assent to diversion of the 5,500 tons to the Swedish market.

GREECE'S OILSEED PRODUCTION DOWN IN 1952

Greece's 1952 vegetable oilseed output totaled about 73,300 short tons, a decrease of some 6 percent from the preceding year, reports Print Hudson, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Athens. The 1952 production consisted of 57,870 tons of commercial cottonseed, 9,150 tons of sesame, 3,500 tons of sunflower seed, 2,200 tons of peanuts, and 550 tons of flaxseed.

The indicated oil supply from the domestic seeds was 6,640 tons, of which 5,620 tons was cottonseed oil. The traditional source of Greece's edible oils and fats, however, is olive oil, consumption of which averages about 110,000 tons annually. Domestic olive oil production from the 1952 olive crop amounted to 78,300 tons, about half that of the preceding year. Animal fats are relatively insignificant in Greece. Butter production in 1952 totaled about 6,600 tons and lard and other animal fats roughly 3,300 tons.

Imports into Greece during 1952 consisted of 4,440 tons of flaxseed from Turkey, 5,060 tons of cottonseed from Mozambique, and 77 tons of copra from Ceylon. In addition, 94 tons of margarine and 77 tons of butter were imported from various countries.

Wholesale prices of oilseeds fluctuated little during 1952. This was due to the fact that the price of olive oil remained relatively stable during the year. The wholesale price of vegetable oils and margarine also remained reasonably stable as follows: between 28.3 and 30.6 cents per pound for refined cottonseed oil, 42.4 and 47.1 cents per pound for linseed oil, 36.5 and 42.4 for cooking fats, and 40.0 and 43.6 cents for margarine. By comparison, the price of olive oil averaged from 31.8 to 34.2 cents per pound. The average retail price of indigenous butter in Athens during January 1953 was \$1.13 per pound.

MEXICO'S INCREASED TOBACCO IMPORT DUTY

The Mexican Government has published a Presidential Decree increasing the import duty on shredded and cut tobacco, effective April 5, 1953, according to P. D. Minor, American Embassy, Mexico, D. F. The new duty rate is 15.8 U.S. cents per pound plus 50 percent ad valorem as compared with the old rate of 5.3 U.S. cents per pound plus 50 percent ad valorem. No official reason was given for this increase, however, trade sources believe the Decree is in line with the government's new policy of levying higher taxes on luxury commodities both imported and domestic.

Imports of shredded and cut tobacco during 1952 totaled only 11,429 pounds valued at \$10,369 as compared with 12,652 pounds valued at \$7,254 in 1951. The United States supplied about 94 percent of total imports.

U.S. TOBACCO EXPORTS FOR FEBRUARY 1953

Exports of United States unmanufactured tobacco during February 1953 totaled 22.9 million pounds, or 23 percent below the 29.7 million pounds exported in February 1952. Flue-cured exports were only 17.5 million pounds during this 1953 month as compared with 23.9 million in February 1952. The decrease of this type accounted for most of the difference, however, Burley, Maryland, Green River, One-Sucker and cigar filler also decreased.

Exports of unmanufactured tobacco, February 1953, with comparisons
(export weight)

Type	February 1953	February 1952
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Flue-cured	17,521	23,927
Burley	1,367	2,064
Dark-fired Virginia	696	353
Dark-fired Kentucky-Tennessee	1,637	1,063
Sun-cured	0	2
Maryland	435	558
Green River	163	413
One-Sucker	89	167
Cigar Wrapper	320	130
Cigar Binder	257	98
Cigar Filler	4	97
Other	421	840
Total	22,910	29,732

Compiled in the Foreign Agricultural Service from records of the Bureau of the Census.

Exports of most tobacco products increased in February 1953 as compared with the corresponding 1952 period.

Exports of tobacco products, February 1953, with comparisons
Tobacco Products

Class of products	February 1953	February 1952
Cigars & Cheroots (1,000 pieces)	301	288
Cigarettes (1,000 pieces)	1,347,912	1,215,113
Chewing tobacco & snuff (pounds)	109,785	214,792
Smoking tobacco in packages (pounds)	33,666	33,237
Smoking tobacco in bulk (pounds)	347,778	261,169

Compiled in the Foreign Agricultural Service from records of the Bureau of the Census.

TOBACCO PRODUCTION IN SPECIFIED COUNTRIES DURING 1953-1/

The 1953 tobacco harvest in the specified countries, the most of which are in the Southern Hemisphere and all of which harvest the majority of their tobacco between December and July, increased to 1,880 million pounds as compared with 1,796 million pounds in 1952. This represents an increase of 5 percent of production over the previous year, whereas acreage increased only 1 percent.

1/ A more extensive statement soon will be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular by the Foreign Agricultural Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

TOBACCO: Acreage, yield per acre, and production in specified countries, 1/ average 1935-39, annual 1952 and 1953

356

Continent and Country	Acreage Harvested		Yield per Acre 2/		Production	
	Average 1935-39	1952	Average 1935-39	1952	Average 1935-39	1952
	acres	acres	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
NORTH AMERICA						
Costa Rica	-	3	-	700	700	1,984
El Salvador	-	2	-	600	600	1,200
Guatemala	5	7	376	599	594	4,219
Honduras	-	10	-	500	507	1,892
Mexico	51	89	840	755	987	5,205
Nicaragua	107	144	447	892	900	67,240
Cuba	25	41	985	542	550	581
Dominican Republic	188	237	-	967	889	78,000
Total for countries shown					120,274	39,682
ASIA						
Burma	108	137	726	780	747	107,000
Ceylon	14	12	650	707	710	8,000
French Indochina	44	25	728	572	667	14,300
India	917	764	831	660	677	504,000
Pakistan 5/	355	168	913	880	882	147,840
Indonesia:						
Java and Madura:	69	30	976	900	950	27,523
Estate	349	100	402	570	570	57,562
Native						
Sumatra:	31	6	988	1,100	955	6,614
Estate (Deli)	-	18	-	1,100	950	19,935
Native (Korf)	176	82	427	726	723	59,524
Philippine Republic	25	102	688	400	400	17,179
Thailand	2,088	1,444	-	-	-	40,000
Total for countries shown					1,535,222	992,098
SOUTH AMERICA						
Argentina	34	92	928	837	928	77,381
Brazil	237	388	851	609	642	236,053
Chile	9	8	1,846	1,685	1,702	13,428
Colombia	-	51	-	880	882	31,697
Paraguay	22	18	808	490	908	45,873
Uruguay	1	16	1,200	1,244	977	8,818
Venezuela	-	16	-	722	844	711
Total for countries shown	303	574	-	-	-	11,633
AFRICA						
Nyasaland	57	85	286	315	385	26,800
Tanganyika	-	-	-	-	-	5,568
Madagascar	19	13	764	669	370	8,818
Mozambique	1	3	385	450	500	1,478
Nigeria	-	-	-	-	-	3,704
Northern Rhodesia	4	27	486	472	455	12,750
Southern Rhodesia	51	194	507	597	600	97,500
Union of South Africa	41	30	500	535	437	42,805
Total for countries shown	173	402	-	-	-	199,423
OCEANIA						
Australia	10	8	532	932	904	7,603
New Zealand	2	4	787	1,616	1,457	5,896
Total for countries shown	12	12	-	-	-	13,499
Total for all countries shown	2,764	2,729	-	-	-	1,796,138

1/ Most of these countries lie within the Southern Hemisphere, with the majority of the harvests occurring between December and July of the year shown.

2/ Yields are calculated from detailed acreage and production estimates rather than estimates rounded to the nearest thousand.

3/ Preliminary.

4/ Less than a 5-year average.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Official estimates of foreign countries, reports from U. S. Foreign Service Officers, results of office research and other information.

Production in these countries during 1935-39 was 2,047 million pounds from 2,764,000 acres. The decrease in the postwar years as compared with the prewar is primarily attributed to decreased production in India, Pakistan, and Indonesia. Some minor decreases also occurred in many of the other countries, included in this summary and included in the accompanying table.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled articles on world agricultural production approved by the Foreign Agricultural Service Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U.S. Foreign Service reports.

ARGENTINE BEEF PRICES INCREASED

Increased beef prices designed to ease the beef shortage in Buenos Aires by encouraging marketing of better finished animals, and holding of breeding stock and young animals on farms to increase cattle numbers, became effective March 30. It is also expected that the move will encourage greater slaughter in the Buenos Aires area as opposed to the trend toward slaughter at interior plants.

Price increases were granted at wholesale and retail levels as well as to packers so as to reflect the increase back to producers for those cattle sold at "Liniers" and for direct shipment to frigorificos for export. Price changes were related to quality with good steers advancing 0.9 to 2.3 cents per pound live weight and prices for lower grade cows dropping about 0.9 cents per pound for cattle sold at Liniers.

The new wholesale prices for sides of steers range from 26.8 to 31.8 cents per pound and prices for cow sides now range from 23.1 to 28.1 cents per pound. New official retail prices range from 36.3 to 72.6 cents per pound for most common beef cuts with a top of 85.3 cents per pound for tenderloin.

WOOL INDUSTRY IN U.K. BOOMING

Steadily rising wool markets and the placing of substantial business in tops, yarns and manufactures created the strongest Bradford market during March for at least 2 years. Delivery dates for tops, yarns and cloth were being steadily extended, despite the reluctance of producers to become oversold. Wool top prices reached the highest point since late 1951, and advances were made in prices of yarns and cloth. A slight ease in crossbred values at the end of the month came too late to determine whether a more serious price fall was in prospect.

Wool stocks at the end of January were slightly higher, and top stocks were lower, than a year earlier. January wool consumption was near the 1950 peak monthly average, top production and yarn deliveries exceeded 1950 averages, and cloth deliveries were just below the average for that year. Imports of wool into the United Kingdom for January-February 1953 were a postwar record. Exports of tops, yarn and cloth showed an upward trend, and local exporters were concentrating upon the North American markets.

COTTON ACREAGE TO BE
RESTRICTED IN SYRIA

The Minister of Agriculture in Syria recently announced limits (percentages of cultivable land) that each grower may plant to cotton in 1953. The limits on irrigated land were placed at 30 percent in the States of Damascus, Latakia, and Hauran, and 50 percent in all the others, compared with 40 to 70 percent for the various states in 1952. About two-thirds of Syria's cotton area is irrigated. Restrictions for dry-land cotton planting in 1953 range from 25 to 50 percent of the cultivable area in various states, only slight variations from the limitations announced last year.

The new restrictions are expected to result in a planted area of about 370,000 acres in 1953, a reduction of 20 percent from the 460,000 acres officially estimated for 1952 and 31 percent below the record area of 537,000 acres in 1951. The 1952-53 crop was officially estimated at 230,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross) or slightly above the 225,000 bales (trade estimate) reported for 1951-52. All Syrian cotton is of American-Upland varieties. "Mixed" varieties accounted for 83 percent of the 1952-53 acreage, Coker 100 Wilt 7 percent, and Acala (mostly 442) 6 percent. The Agricultural Bank has been authorized to import and distribute 200 metric tons of Coker 100 Wilt seed for planting in 1953. This is considerably less than was imported in each of the past 2 seasons.

Excessive rainfall in several districts in March has delayed preparations for planting. Many farmers, discouraged with the fall in cotton prices since 1951 and the high cost of controlling insect pests, have indicated their intention of diverting cotton land to rice. Losses from insect attacks in 1952 were estimated at 20 to 30 percent of the crop following a 50-percent loss in 1951.

The supply of cotton for the 1952-53 year is estimated at 252,000 bales, including stocks on August 1 of 22,000 bales and production of 230,000 bales. Consumption during August-February 1952-53 is reported at 28,000 bales (includes 1,000 bales noncommercial) and exports during this period amounted to 134,000 bales. Allowing about 20,000 bales for end-season carry-over, there remain about 70,000 bales for export after March 1, 1953.

Prices of Syrian cotton have declined steadily from an average of LS 2.90 per kilogram (35.52 cents a pound) at Damascus in October 1952 to LS 2.30 (28.17 cents) average in January and February 1953 and rose slightly to LS 2.35 (28.78 cents) in March. An export tax of 20 piasters per kilogram (2.45 cents a pound), in effect since September 15, 1952, must be added to the above quotations for exported cotton. The export tax had the effect of reducing the prices paid to growers because of the highly competitive nature of the export market. Local mills derived some price advantage from this situation. European buyers are reported to be showing increasing interest in Syrian cotton at current prices and in the efforts of the Syrian Government to improve the grading and classification of their cotton. France and the United Kingdom were the principal export outlets for Syrian cotton in 1952.

WORLD WINTER GRAIN PROSPECTS LESS FAVORABLE

The outlook for the world winter breadgrain crops is less favorable than the outlook at this time a year ago, according to information available to the Foreign Agricultural Service. Winter wheat, the principal fall-sown crop, normally accounts for about 75 percent of the world wheat acreage, with the bulk of the wheat acreage fall-seeded in all important producing areas except the Soviet Union and Canada. Pre-war averages for the Soviet Union indicated about 35 percent of all wheat acreage was in winter wheat. In Canada winter wheat covers an even smaller percentage, with fall-sown acreage averaging 5 percent or less of total wheat acreage.

The less favorable outlook this year comes about through reduced seedings in a number of important producing areas and also less favorable growing conditions. Lack of adequate moisture is causing concern over wide areas. In still other parts, especially the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, serious floods caused extensive crop losses.

A sharp reduction in the winter wheat crop is in prospect for the United States this year. Acreage seeded in the fall was about a half million acres less than the large acreage of a year ago. It was still, however, well above average. The crop indicated April 1 was 714 million bushels, compared with the large outturn of 1,053 million in 1952 and the average of 797 million bushels for the 10 years ended 1951. The small crop is, however, better than was expected, on the basis of earlier season forecasts. The improvement over earlier prospects is due to unusually favorable weather during March and reflects smaller acreage losses than were expected. Acreage not harvested for grain is now forecast at 22 percent of seeded acreage, compared with 10 percent last year and 11.6 percent for the preceding 10 years. Yield prospects have improved in most areas, but are still somewhat below average. Current prospects for 12.9 bushels per acre contrast with the heavy yields of 18.8 bushels a year ago and the average of 15.6 bushels for the 10 years ended 1951. Moisture reserves are still low in many areas of the wheat belt, and the outcome of crops there will be dependent on timely rains for the remainder of the growing season.

Dry conditions over much of Canada this winter caused concern there, but above-average rainfall since mid-January has made the moisture condition much more favorable. Winter wheat acreage in Ontario, the only reporting Province for winter wheat, was placed at 715,000 acres, a 10 percent increase over that of the previous year. Fall rye is tentatively estimated at 841,100 acres. This is 11 percent above the winter rye acreage a year ago. Official estimates of the extent of winter-kill and spring condition of these crops will not be released until May 20.

In Europe, about 90 percent of the total wheat acreage is normally fall-sown. Acreage appears likely to be less than it was a year ago because of unfavorable seeding weather in a number of countries. Dry conditions over wide areas make the outlook for the crop less favorable than at this time last year.

Weather conditions were fairly favorable for fall seeding operations in Austria, and there was generally adequate moisture to maintain germination and growth. Fall wheat acreage was expected to show an increase over that of a year ago, but fall rye acreage may be down slightly. The condition of the grain was mostly satisfactory, but there had been some winter-kill in western areas, according to trade reports.

Fall wheat acreage in Belgium appears to be somewhat smaller than the 1952 acreage. Cold weather during the fall and winter held up seeding, as did the late harvest of sugar beets. Wheat frequently follows sugar beets in the normal crop rotation. Winter rye acreage is not expected to show much change from that of last season. Damage to winter crops resulted from flooding of some areas, and the condition of winter wheat is reported as below normal for about 60 percent of the country. Condition of the remainder of the crop is described as good to very good.

In Denmark acreages of fall-sown wheat and rye were smaller than they were last season. Little damage from unusually cold weather of early February was apparent, at latest report.

The area seeded to winter wheat in France was somewhat smaller than in 1952, because of a wet fall and early winter, which retarded soil preparation and seeding. The condition of the crop is irregular. On heavy soils the crop is poor and wheat in some fields was lost because of excessive moisture and alternate frosts and thaws. Later spring weather was too dry. Condition of the crop on March 1 was rated at 63 in a system in which 60 is fairly good, 80 is good and 100, very good. For comparison, the condition on March 1, 1952 was rated at 70. Rye acreage was smaller than a year ago and condition was also less favorable.

Total winter breadgrain acreage in Western Germany is reported smaller than last season, a decline in acreage of winter wheat and spelt more than offsetting an increase in winter rye and mixed grains. The reduction in the wheat acreage is attributed to unfavorable weather at seeding time. The grains are said to have come through the winter in good condition.

Prospects for winter grain crops in Greece are good, with a larger wheat acreage and little change for rye. Weather conditions have been favorable and moisture supplies ample.

Preliminary forecasts for Ireland based on seed sales, indicate an increase of about 30 percent over the 1952 wheat acreage. This would be well above the prewar average but still considerably below the high wartime level. Continued dry weather makes the yield outlook less favorable than last year, when yields were above average.

Official acreage data released recently show winter wheat acreage in Italy slightly above that of a year ago. Growth is reported somewhat backward because of persistent drought, and yields are expected to be reduced especially in northern areas where rains were urgently needed, at latest report.

In the Netherlands winter wheat acreage is sharply below the acreage of a year ago, according to latest estimates. Acreage reduction was due to October rains and an abnormally cold November. Violent storms and severe floods in early February further reduced the seeded acreage on most of the islands in the southwestern part of the Netherlands and in coastal areas of the mainland. The areas flooded include some of the best and most efficiently administered grain lands in the country. Unusually warm and sunny weather toward the end of February and continuing through March has permitted rapid progress in restoration work, so that many areas were completely dry by the end of March. Seeding of spring grains will be possible this season on areas flooded with fresh or brackish water, estimated to be about half of the total cropland flooded.

No official estimates of wheat acreage in Portugal are available, but the total seeded is expected to be about the same as the area for 1952. Dry weather was beginning to affect grain crops and pastures, until widespread rains received in late March and early April gave partial relief. Further rains were needed, however, as reserve moisture supplies are low.

Preliminary estimates for Spain show little change from the comparatively large wheat acreage reported for 1952. Winter growing conditions were less favorable than they were for the past 2 winters, in many areas. Dry soil conditions are causing concern in many important grain districts.

Sweden's winter grain seedings are reportedly about 25 percent above the area under those grains a year ago. Relatively favorable prices for grain and the Government's assurance that prices for the 1953 crop will be maintained at approximately the present level account for the increase.

Persistent cold and rain held up fall seeding in Switzerland, and a substantial reduction in winter wheat acreage is reported. Rye and spelt acreage was less affected than wheat since rye is seeded earlier and spelt can be seeded later in the season than wheat. The condition of the grain crop was good at latest report.

Winter wheat acreage seeded in the United Kingdom last fall was somewhat above the small sowings of a year ago, though still below average. Floods in February caused substantial losses in coastal areas, which will partly offset the larger sowings. The condition of winter wheat as of April 1, was satisfactory on the whole, though growth had been generally retarded by dry, cold conditions.

Fall seeding of grain in Yugoslavia was slightly less than in the fall of 1951. The net decrease is attributed to reduced wheat acreage. A small increase is reported for rye. Crops appear in generally good condition, with adequate soil moisture since October and sufficient snow cover to prevent winterkill. Earlier floods are reported to have had negligible effects on fall grain acreage.

Little definite information is available on conditions in eastern Europe, but fall seedings are believed to be smaller than those of a year ago, mainly because of the early advent of winter and excessive rains at seeding time. Shortage of seed in some parts of the Danube Basin was also a deterrent. Grain seems to have wintered well in most areas.

Reports on condition of winter crops in the Soviet Union have been generally favorable, especially for the important winter wheat belt of the Ukraine. Lack of published data on grain acreage indicates no significant increase, and possibly even some decrease from the 1952 area.

Virtually all the wheat grown in Africa is winter grain. The outlook for the growing crop in the principal producing countries for which reports are available is less favorable than last season's good conditions. Rye is of no significance in this area. The general outlook for the 1953 crop in Algeria appeared only fair in early February. Acreage of both hard and soft wheat is somewhat below that of a year ago, because of lack of moisture over a good part of the country. Good rains in early February improved prospects, which now are reported generally satisfactory. French Morocco's normal winter rains came late this season, delaying grain seeding by about 3 weeks. Wheat acreage is believed to be about 10 percent less than it was a year ago. Growing conditions have been variable, with excessive rains in some parts and drought in others.

Conditions also vary widely in Tunisia where rainfall in northern areas had been about twice the normal volume by mid-February and southern areas had only about a third of their usual moisture. Though prospects were good for the north, the overall production for the country appeared likely to be little more than half the record crop produced last season. Wheat acreage in Egypt shows a sharp increase as a result of a substantial increase in the price to be paid producers and the announced intention to enforce the Government's regulations governing the percentages of land to be planted to wheat and cotton.

Asia's wheat crop is also almost entirely winter grown. Definite information is available for only a few of the principal producing countries. Wheat yields are reported excellent in India and a good total outturn is reported despite a smaller area seeded. The outlook for Pakistan is less favorable, with tentative estimates placing acreage only about 85 percent of the 1952 area. The decrease in the important producing Punjab, where about 70 percent of all Pakistan's wheat is grown, was due to insufficient moisture at sowing time coupled with insufficient and irregular supplies of canal water for irrigating. Substantial imports of wheat will be required again this season. Winter wheat acreage in Turkey is somewhat larger than the record area seeded a year ago. Moisture and weather conditions have been generally very favorable. If yields are up to average, another big grain crop would be harvested.

An increase of about 10 percent is reported in the winter grain acreage for Syria. Some shift from cotton to grain was expected following the poor cotton crops of 1951 and 1952. In addition some uncultivated State lands were distributed prior to the sowing season. Current yield prospects are not favorable, because of below-average rainfall in the main wheat growing area. A slight increase is forecast for wheat acreage in Iran. Yield prospects are not especially promising, however, since precipitation has been inadequate over most of the important grain producing area. Wheat acreage in Iraq is expected to be at least equal to the 1952 area. Crop prospects range from excellent in the north to good in the south. Rainfall has been generally adequate and the winter was mild....By Judith E. Downey, based in part upon U.S. Foreign Service reports.

FINLAND INCREASES PRICES TO GRAIN PRODUCERS

Grain producers in Finland are to have increased prices for wheat and rye of the 1953-54 crop year, according to a recent announcement. The move, aimed at increasing breadgrain acreage, is compensated by a corresponding decrease in the Government's guaranteed price for oilseeds.

Under the new schedule 33 Finnmarks per kilo will be paid for both grains. This is the equivalent of \$3.91 per bushel for wheat, and \$3.65 for rye. This is an increase of 3 Finnmarks per kilo (33 cents per bushel) for rye and 2 for wheat (24 cents per bushel). Imported grain is to be furnished to flour mills at a lower price enabling them to continue selling flour at the present price.

U. S. RICE EXPORTS DECLINE IN FEBRUARY

United States rice exports in February of 806,000 bags (100 pounds) were down from the peak exports in the preceding months of the current marketing year. Shipments were the smallest since last August, when marketing of the 1952 crop had not yet fully begun. Monthly exports during the 1952-53 (August-July) season have been as follows in 1,000 bags: August 519; September 1,017; October 1,992; November 1,492; December 2,033; and January 1,997.

February exports brought to 9,856,000 bags in terms of milled the total exported during the August-February period of the current marketing year. This compares with the previous record of 9,634,000 bags exported during the corresponding months of a year earlier. Total exports to Western Hemisphere countries have been at about the same rate as a year ago, with shipments to Cuba about even, and increased exports to Canada being offset by a decline to Venezuela.

RICE: United States exports to specified countries,
February 1953, with comparisons 1/

Continent and Country	August-July		August-February:		February	
	: 1945-46:	:	: 1951-52:	: 1951-52:1952-53 :	: 1952 :	: 1953
	: to	:	: 1951-52:	: 1952-53 :	: 1952 :	: 1953
	: 1949-50:	:	:	: 2/:	:	: 2/
	: 1,000	:	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000
	: bags	:	: bags	: bags	: bags	: bags
Western Hemisphere:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Canada.....	399:	443:	307:	412:	27:	56
British Honduras.....	13:	22:	15:	2:	2:	0
British West Indies.....	97:	54:	48:	79:	1:	1
Cuba.....	4,923:	5,118:	3,290:	3,262:	424:	301
Netherlands Antilles.....	9:	25:	13:	25:	2:	4
Venezuela.....	76:	196:	182:	50:	4:	8
Other countries.....	104:	38:	25:	9:	3:	1
Total W. Hemisphere....	5,621:	5,896:	3,800:	3,839:	463:	371
Europe:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Belgium & Luxembourg....	73:	57:	26:	37:	7:	3
Greece.....	109:	209:	164:	3/ :	3/ :	3/
Iceland.....	10:	3:	0:	6:	0:	1
Switzerland.....	32:	21:	14:	31:	0:	8
Other countries.....	4/ 114:	1:	1:	3/ :	3/ :	1
Total Europe.....	338:	291:	205:	74:	7:	13
Asia:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Saudi Arabia.....	80:	91:	61:	79:	1:	11
Ceylon.....	0:	741:	0:	647:	0:	0
Indonesia.....	646:	1,799:	1,479:	833:	67:	33
Philippines.....	1,136:	71:	3/ :	0:	0:	0
China.....	796:	0:	0:	0:	0:	0
Korea.....	98:	2,821:	1,758:	962:	213:	124
Hong Kong.....	37:	0:	0:	179:	0:	0
Japan.....	279:	5,430:	2,245:	3,203:	1,178:	252
Other countries.....	23:	9:	5:	4:	3:	2
Total Asia.....	3,095:	10,962:	5,548:	5,907:	1,462:	422
Total Oceania.....	5:	13:	5:	14:	1:	3/
Liberia.....	36:	73:	46:	22:	0:	0
Other Africa.....	1:	4:	3/ :	3/ :	3/ :	3/
Total World.....	9,096:	17,239:	9,684:	9,856:	1,933:	806

1/ Milled rice, including brown, broken, screenings, and brewer's rice and rough rice converted to milled at 65 percent. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Less than 500 bags. 4/ Average of 72,000 bags to Austria, 14,000 bags to Germany, and 11,000 bags to France.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

Exports to Asia during the August-February period increased sharply, primarily to Japan and Ceylon. On the other hand, exports to Europe declined to one-third of last year's volume. In contrast with the 164,000 bags exported to Greece in the same period of 1951-52 virtually no rice has been shipped there this year, that country having increased domestic production to supply its rice requirements....By L. Thelma Willahan.

SPECIFIED AMOUNTS OF BURMA
RICE SOLD AT HIGH PRICES

The Government of Burma on March 26 informed buyers that of the 122,000 long tons (273 million pounds) of rice offered in the tender that closed March 9, the amount of 49,000 long tons (110 million pounds) had been sold to local firms for export during April 1953. The remaining 73,000 tons (164 million pounds) of the total offered in the tender was not sold because the Government considered the bids received to be too low.

BURMA: Rice sales reported, March 26, 1953

Type	Quantity		Price		Destination
			Pounds sterling	Dollars	
	Long tons	Million pounds	Long tons	100 pounds	
Ngasein loonzain (brown rice)...	500	1.1	72/10/-	9.11	1/
Ngasein loonzain (brown rice)...	2,000	4.5	72/7/6	9.10	1/
Ngasein loonzain (brown rice)...	1,500	3.4	72/7/6	9.10	United Kingdom 1/
Ngasein Superior Quality...	5,000	11.2	79/1/-	9.94	Japan
Europe No. 3, 30%.....	500	1.1	81/-	10.18	1/
Europe No. 2, 25%.....	3,000	6.7	82/6/-	10.35	Japan
Meedone, Bazaar Quality, 38%.....	16,500	37.0	79/1/-	9.94	Japan
Meedone, S.Q., 32%.....	5,000	11.2	80/-/6	10.06	Japan
Sughandi, SMS, 35%.....	6,500	14.6	80/5/-	10.09	1/
Ekarine, SMS, 35%.....	3,000	6.7	85/17/6	10.79	Persian Gulf, Red Sea ports and Africa
Dawebyan, SMS, 35%.....	500	1.1	76/10/0	9.62	Persian Gulf, Red Sea ports and Africa
Milchar, No. 2, 10%.....	5,000	11.2	77/10/-	9.74	U. K. territories

1/ Purchased by local firms on a speculative basis and, except where indicated for a specified country, may be shipped to any country except India, Ceylon, Japan, Indonesia, and U. K. territories.

Compiled from Embassy report.

Reliable trade sources report that Burma has allocated to India 150,000 long tons (ten of 2,240 pounds) of rice on a Government-to-Government basis, and 50,000 tons for purchase in private trade, for shipment prior to June 30, 1953. Those allocations are a part of the 350,000 tons (230,000 on Government-to-Government basis and 120,000 in private trade) to which India is entitled under a trade agreement with Burma. Little progress appears to have been made in the completion of a proposed barter agreement in which India wants to obtain additional quantities of rice during 1953.

Whether Burma will be able to secure prices for all of the 1952-53 crop as high as those reported on March 26 seems questionable at this time. The amount of rice available for export is believed to be considerably larger than that of a year ago, and the demand appears to be no stronger now than it was in April 1952.

U. S. FOREIGN TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS DURING FEBRUARY 1953 ^{1/}

Continuing the downward trend of recent months, United States exports of agricultural products during February 1953, the eighth month of fiscal 1952-53, amounted in value to only \$216,476,000, a reduction of 43 percent compared with the \$381,774,000 worth exported during the corresponding month of 1952, and of 33 percent compared with the year's peak to date of \$323,083,000 in December 1952.

The country's exports of all commodities, agricultural as well as nonagricultural, were valued at \$1,182,464,000 during the month under review, an overall reduction of 11 percent compared with the \$1,325,517,000 total for the corresponding month of 1952, and of 14 percent compared with the year's peak to date of \$1,380,405,000 in December 1952. Agricultural products constituted 18 percent of the total outward movement during the month under review compared with 29 percent in the same month last year. The figures reveal that while February exports of agricultural commodities declined by 43 percent compared with those for February 1952, exports of nonagricultural commodities showed a slight increase.

On a dollar value basis, wheat and wheat flour figured as the nation's most important agricultural export in February, although shipments abroad were valued at only \$60,498,000 compared with \$105,603,000 in February 1952, a reduction of 43 percent. Second place went to cotton, the exports of which were valued at \$46,642,000, a reduction of 64 percent compared with the \$130,015,000 worth exported during the same month a year ago. Leaf tobacco constituted the third most important agricultural export during the month under review, but with sales abroad valued at only \$14,069,000 compared with \$19,109,000 in February 1952, a reduction of 27 percent. Fourth place went to corn with exports valued at \$13,943,000, an increase of 44 percent compared with the \$9,685,000 worth exported in the same month a year ago.

On a quantitative basis, the outstanding feature of our February agricultural exports compared with those for the same month a year ago were very large reductions in exports of butter, condensed milk, whole dried milk, nonfat dry milk solids, lard, cotton, dried eggs, apples, grapefruit, prunes, barley, grain sorghums, milled rice, wheat, shelled peanuts, soybean oil and soybean flour, field and garden seeds, flue-cured tobacco, dried beans and peas, and white potatoes. While several other items show smaller reductions, there were large increases in exports of pork, tallow, oranges, pears, canned fruits, corn, hops and canned vegetables, and substantial increases in exports of beef and veal and fruit juices.

^{1/} More complete details than presented in this summary will be published in U. S. Foreign Trade in Agricultural Products for February 1953, available on request from Foreign Agricultural Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

UNITED STATES: Summary of exports, domestic, of selected
agricultural products, during February 1952 and 1953

Commodity exported	Unit	February			
		Quantity		Value	
		1952	1953	1952	1953
				1,000	1,000
ANIMAL PRODUCTS:		Thousands:	Thousands:	dollars:	dollars
Butter	Lb.:	125	35	114	26
Cheese	Lb.:	264	236	141	124
Milk, condensed	Lb.:	3,215	1,527	735	381
Milk, whole, dried	Lb.:	3,494	2,850	1,924	1,614
Nonfat dry milk solids	Lb.:	7,908	1,690	1,020	321
Milk, evaporated	Lb.:	7,025	7,785	1,149	1,229
Eggs, dried	Lb.:	551	69	217	52
Beef and veal, total 1/	Lb.:	1,006	1,272	451	377
Pork, total 1/	Lb.:	7,675	9,983	1,919	1,949
Horse meat	Lb.:	1,680	1,163	194	199
Lard	Lb.:	100,339	45,881	16,070	4,458
Tallow, edible and inedible	Lb.:	55,532	69,251	4,645	4,144
VEGETABLE PRODUCTS:					
Cotton, unmd, excl. linters (480 lb.)	Bale:	605	270	130,015	46,642
Apples, fresh	Lb.:	18,163	3,332	960	356
Grapefruit, fresh	Lb.:	14,040	12,649	468	447
Oranges, fresh	Lb.:	46,603	57,981	2,143	2,353
Pears, fresh	Lb.:	946	1,845	104	193
Prunes, dried	Lb.:	11,988	4,177	1,273	709
Raisins and currants	Lb.:	31,120	30,436	2,548	2,155
Fruits, canned	Lb.:	7,066	9,422	1,207	1,451
Fruit juices	Gal:	2,022	2,298	1,570	2,032
Barley, grain (48 lb.)	Bu.:	3,440	1,771	5,988	2,930
Barley malt (34 lb.)	Bu.:	463	390	1,194	1,118
Corn, grain (56 lb.)	Bu.:	4,791	7,516	9,685	13,943
Grain sorghums (56 lb.)	Bu.:	5,467	2,626	9,198	4,860
Rice, milled (excluding paddy)	Lb.:	190,785	78,335	15,820	8,311
Wheat, grain (60 lb.)	Bu.:	43,203	25,586	96,158	52,716
Flour, wholly of U.S. wheat (100 lb.)	Bag:	1,795	1,460	8,319	7,077
Flour, not wholly of U.S. wheat (100 lb.)	Bag:	197	133	1,126	705
Hops	Lb.:	1,672	2,213	1,516	1,715
Peanuts, shelled	Lb.:	114	76	45	40
Soybeans, except canned (60 lb.) ...	Bu.:	2,359	2,237	7,242	7,103
Soybean oil, crude, refined, etc. ..	Lb.:	28,219	1,432	4,012	217
Soybean flour, edible	Lb.:	757	177	68	13
Seeds, field and garden	Lb.:	2,421	1,775	771	734
Tobacco, bright flue-cured	Lb.:	23,927	17,521	16,023	10,732
Tobacco, leaf, other	Lb.:	5,238	5,141	3,086	3,337
Beans, dried	Lb.:	27,817	19,471	1,963	1,966
Peas, dried	Lb.:	7,989	4,464	532	366
Potatoes, white	Lb.:	21,185	6,907	799	225
Vegetables, canned	Lb.:	7,428	9,749	1,011	1,270
Total above				353,423	190,590
Food exported for relief, etc.				697	488
Other agricultural products				27,654	25,398
Total agricultural				381,774	216,476
Total all commodities				1,325,517	1,182,464

1/ Product weight.

Compiled from official records, Bureau of the Census.

UNITED STATES: Summary of imports for consumption
of selected agricultural products during February 1952 and 1953

Commodity imported SUPPLEMENTARY	Unit:	February			
		Quantity		Value	
		1952	1953	1952	1953
				1,000	1,000
ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS:		Thousands:	Thousands:	dollars:	dollars:
Cattle, dutiable	No.:	7	31	1,864	2,324
Cattle, free (for breeding)	No.:	1	1/	447	71
Casein and lactarene	Lb.:	3,685	5,808	873	760
Cheese	Lb.:	3,385	3,559	1,560	1,826
Hides and skins	Lb.:	10,435	11,313	3,891	4,060
Beef canned, incl. corned	Lb.:	9,289	6,119	3,019	2,182
Wool, unmf'd., excl. free, etc.	Lb.:	31,003	30,161	27,977	22,226
VEGETABLE PRODUCTS:					
Cotton, unmf'd., excl. lint (480 lb.)	Bale:	35	27	13,537	5,578
Jute and jute butts, unmf'd. (2,240 lb.)	Ton :	1	7	316	1,103
Apples, green or ripe (50 lb.)	Bu.:	81	120	238	428
Olives in brine	Gal.:	980	1,037	1,487	1,591
Pineapples, prep. or preserved	Lb.:	10,007	4,819	1,115	587
Barley malt	Lb.:	3,439	2,187	209	134
Hops	Lb.:	1,131	241	1,224	303
Almonds, shelled	Lb.:	133	571	56	207
Brazil or cream nuts, not shelled ...	Lb.:	0	108	0	29
Cashew nuts	Lb.:	1,897	2,486	842	1,095
Coconut meat, shredded, etc.	Lb.:	4,230	6,840	585	1,112
Castor beans	Lb.:	15,062	13,322	1,595	1,179
Copra	Lb.:	72,574	39,938	5,145	3,601
Flaxseed (56 lb.)	Bu.:	0	1/	0	1
Coconut oil	Lb.:	1,767	5,298	167	655
Palm oil	Lb.:	8,103	1,740	1,766	162
Tung oil	Lb.:	2,050	437	689	130
Sugar, excl. beet (2,000 lb.)	Ton:	297	288	29,394	31,237
Molasses, unfit for human consumption	Gal.:	12,369	48,478	2,387	3,415
Tobacco, cigarette leaf	Lb.:	6,083	6,069	4,130	4,092
Tobacco, other leaf	Lb.:	2,103	1,260	2,735	1,877
Potatoes, white	Lb.:	4,555	16,956	215	598
Tomatoes, natural state	Lb.:	36,293	57,959	2,463	4,570
COMPLEMENTARY					
Wool, unmf'd., free in bond	Lb.:	9,553	14,651	5,670	6,902
VEGETABLE PRODUCTS:					
Bananas	Bunch	3,221	3,711	3,539	4,691
Coffee (ex. into Puerto Rico)	Lb.:	300,905	238,944	153,943	121,221
Cocoa or cacao beans	Lb.:	60,377	55,260	17,070	15,120
Tea	Lb.:	6,659	7,949	2,952	3,251
Spices (complementary)	Lb.:	3,970	7,213	3,219	4,611
Sisal and henequen (2,240 lb.)	Ton:	14	10	6,632	2,520
Rubber, crude	Lb.:	171,098	108,539	73,821	28,816
Total above				376,772	284,265
Other agricultural products				62,301	51,193
Total agricultural products				439,073	335,458
Total all commodities				901,558	848,279

1/ Less than 500.

Compiled from official records, Bureau of the Census.

With respect to agricultural imports, receipts from abroad during February 1953 were valued at \$335,458,000, a reduction of 24 percent compared with the \$439,073,000 worth imported during February last year, and of 18 percent compared with the 1952-53 peak to date of \$410,718,000 in December 1952. The country's imports of all commodities, agricultural as well as nonagricultural, were valued at \$848,279,000 in February this year compared with \$901,558,000 in the same month last year.

On a dollar value basis, agricultural products constituted 40 percent of the total imports compared with 49 percent in the corresponding month a year ago. As usual, such commodities as coffee, sugar, wool, rubber, and cocoa or cacao beans, constituted the principal agricultural imports. The figures reveal that while agricultural imports declined by 24 percent compared with February 1952, imports of nonagricultural products increased by 11 percent.

On a quantitative basis, the February 1953 imports, compared with those for the same month last year show large reductions in imports of canned beef, cotton, pineapples, barley malt, hops, castor beans, copra, palm oil, tung oil, coffee, tobacco, cocoa or cacao beans, sisal and rubber. On the other hand, large increases took place in imports of dutiable cattle, casein and lactarene, jute, apples, olives in brine, shelled almonds, Brazil nuts, cashew nuts, coconut meat, coconut oil, molasses, white potatoes, tomatoes, tea and spices. In addition, substantial increases are shown in imports of cheese and hides and skins.

United States imports of agricultural products exceeded agricultural exports in value by \$118,982,000 in February this year compared with the excess of only \$57,299,000 in the same month a year ago. During December 1952, the peak month of agricultural imports and exports to date for the current 1952-53 fiscal year, the nation's agricultural imports exceeded that of its agricultural exports by \$87,635,000. ---By Leo J. Schaben.

WORLD PRODUCTION OF CACAO BEANS

The world production of cacao beans in 1952-53 is now preliminarily forecast at 1,607 million pounds, less than 1 percent below the forecast published in Foreign Crops and Markets of December 15, 1952. The 1952-53 production is 6.6 percent above the 1,508 million pounds produced in 1951-52. The 1950-51 production is estimated at 1,733 million pounds.

Gold Coast production has increased from 480 million pounds in 1951-52 to 567 million pounds in 1952-53 but it still has not reached the prewar level of 609 million pounds. This season's increased production is primarily attributed to effective disease control and early, heavy rains. The current Nigerian crop is estimated at 7 percent below the 1951-52 crop and the French West African crop has increased 6 percent over the 1951-52 crop.

CACAO: Estimated production of cacao beans in principal producing countries, average 1935-36 to 1939-40, annual 1950-51 to 1952-53 1/

Continent and Country	Average 1935-36 to 1939-40 2/	1950-51	1951-52 3/	1952-53 3/
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
NORTH AMERICA				
Costa Rica.....	14,356	6,400	7,055	14,330
Cuba	7,000	5,500	6,500	7,300
Dominican Republic	54,049	71,209	58,642	66,138
Grenada	8,536	6,720	6,720	7,000
Haiti	3,349	4,858	4,069	4,244
Jamaica	4,750	4,860	4,400	4,800
Mexico	2,500	18,979	18,739	18,960
Panama	10,418	2,300	2,275	3,379
Trinidad & Tobago	31,635	18,500	15,000	20,000
Other North America 4/	4,059	4,369	4,664	4,269
Total	140,652	143,695	128,064	150,420
SOUTH AMERICA				
Brazil	263,980	300,400	230,876	195,000
Colombia	25,000	32,077	33,069	33,069
Ecuador	42,373	62,000	50,000	62,000
Venezuela	36,934	37,200	39,500	40,000
Total	368,287	431,677	353,445	330,069
AFRICA				
Belgian Congo	2,809	4,059	4,070	5,512
Fernando Po & Rio Muni	25,000	31,740	33,069	37,478
French Cameroons and Equatorial Africa	60,221	100,929	114,860	115,000
French West Africa 5/	109,937	135,318	104,454	121,253
Gold Coast 6/	609,363	590,000	480,000	566,720
Nigeria 7/	216,318	248,015	241,671	224,000
Sao Thome & Principe	22,496	16,259	19,445	19,621
Other Africa 8/	8,154	17,814	13,550	20,218
Total	1,054,298	1,144,134	1,011,119	1,109,802
ASIA AND OCEANIA				
Ceylon	7,931	5,430	5,600	6,496
Indonesia	3,310	1,920	1,920	2,000
New Hebrides	3,916	884	2,000	1,984
Western Samoa	2,326	5,670	5,397	5,952
Total	17,483	13,904	14,917	16,432
GRAND TOTAL	1,580,720	1,733,410	1,507,545	1,606,723

1/ Production in Brazil is given for the 12 months May 1-April 30. Production in most of the other countries is given for the 12 months October 1-September 30.

2/ Export data have been used for all countries with the exception of Mexico, Cuba and Colombia. 3/ Preliminary. 4/ Includes Dominica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent.

5/ Includes Ivory Coast and Dahomey. 6/ Includes British Togoland. 7/ Includes British Cameroons. 8/ Includes Angola, French Togoland, Liberia, Madagascar, and Sierra Leone.

Source: Foreign Agricultural Service, Official estimates of foreign countries, U.S. foreign service reports and other information.

YUGOSLAVIA RECEIVES \$11 MILLION U.S. DOLLARS TO PURCHASE FOODSTUFFS

Yugoslavia has been informed that \$11 million is being made available to it by the United States as another emergency relief grant to enable it to purchase foodstuffs needed as a result of the 1952 drought.

This grant is in addition to 2 earlier contributions and brings the total aid from the United States to Yugoslavia for all purposes for the fiscal year 1952-53 to \$109 million. Last fall the first grant amounting to \$78 million, which was the United States' share of the second year of tripartite aid to Yugoslavia, was announced. ^{1/}

The original purpose of the tripartite aid was to enable Yugoslavia to import principally needed industrial raw materials and thus to offset the Soviet blockade. However, after the effects of the 1952 drought became apparent, the original plan had to be modified to include substantial food imports as well as imports of raw materials.

The United States made an additional grant of \$20 million for food alone in January 1953, bringing its total grants in aid through March 31, 1953, to \$98 million. Up to that time about \$39 million had been used for the purchase of over 432,000 metric tons of foodstuffs from the United States, as shown in the following tabulation.

Yugoslav contracts for foodstuffs from the United States during
the period October 1952 - March 31, 1953

Commodity	Quantity	Value
	1,000 bushels	1,000 dollars
Wheat	9,737	25,250
Corn	5,590	10,294
Hybrid seed corn	16	66
Oats	689	650
	1,000 pounds	
Lard	14,991	1,648
Tallow (inedible)	17,921	1,196
Total	-	39,104

^{1/} The 3 power (United States, United Kingdom, and France) economic aid to Yugoslavia was started in June 1951, when the country suffered a severe setback in its economy as a result of a drought during the preceding year.

It is not yet known what commodities will be purchased with the new grant of 11 million dollars. It is probable, however, that it will be used principally for additional wheat and corn imports.

This is the second time in 3 years that the United States has helped to bolster a drought-stricken Yugoslav economy with food and other aid. In 1950, after the severe drought of that year, a program of food assistance was speedily undertaken by the U. S. Government, as a result of which Yugoslavia obtained over 517,000 metric tons of food at a cost of more than 70 million dollars, including transportation, thus averting famine conditions. The following table shows the shipments of the various commodities to Yugoslavia under the United States 1950-51 Food Aid Program.

United States shipments to Yugoslavia under the 1950-51
Food Aid Program

Commodity	Quantity	Value
	1,000 <u>bushels</u>	Metric <u>tons</u> 1,000 <u>dollars</u>
Corn	4,429	112,500
Wheat	625	17,000
Barley	1,828	39,803
Oats	2,067	30,000
Milo	984	25,000
	1,000 <u>pounds</u>	
Wheat flour	312,566	141,779
Corn meal	59,562	27,017
Lard and Vegetable oil	75,955	34,453
Beans and dried peas	121,010	54,890
Sugar	44,103	20,005
Dried milk	13,228	6,000
Dried eggs	9,952	4,514
Honey	606	275
Canned meat	1,977	906
Seed	6,614	3,000
Total	-	517,142
Transportation costs.....	-	-
Total	-	-
		63,396
		7,564
		70,960

L A T E N E W S
(Continued from Page 347)

The copra export price as of mid-April was \$217 per short ton c.i.f., Pacific compared with \$240 in mid-March. Local buying prices were 39 to 46 pesos per 100 kilograms, Manila and producing areas (\$198.13 to \$233.69 per long ton).

The following revisions were reported in the February figures: Pacific 14,683; total 32,264 tons.

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The State Government of Punjab (in Pakistan) announced about April 13 a compulsory 10 percent reduction in cotton acreage below the 1952-53 estimate (not available). The 1,865,000 acres planted to cotton in Punjab in 1951-52 represented 55 percent of Pakistan's total cotton acreage.

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Transshipments of Mexican cotton (including linters, waste, and hull fiber) through United States ports in January amounted to 68,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross), making a total of 530,000 bales for August-January 1952-53. The latter figure includes 228,000 bales to Japan, 77,000 to Belgium, 56,000 to Germany, 51,000 to the Netherlands, 38,000 to the United Kingdom, 13,000 to Switzerland, 13,000 to Finland, 12,000 to Sweden, 8,000 to France, and 7,000 to Italy. Exports of cotton from Mexico in 1951-52 that did not pass through United States ports amounted to 207,000 bales.

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Imports of cotton into the United States in February totaled 27,050 bales (of 500 pounds gross) including 16,519 from Egypt, 6,151 from Mexico, 2,566 from India, 950 from Pakistan, 837 from Peru, and 27 from the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan.

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Imports of cotton into Western Germany during August-January 1952-53 totaled 545,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross), including 144,000 from the United States, 84,000 from Egypt, 80,000 from Turkey, 52,000 from Mexico, 45,000 from the Belgian Congo, 28,000 from British East Africa, 23,000 from Pakistan, 15,000 from Peru, 13,000 from Iran, 10,000 from India, and 8,000 from the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan.

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